

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB284:
**“An Act Increasing the Age from Eight to Eighteen Years for an Income-Eligible
Person to Obtain Medical Assistance Regardless of Immigration Status”**

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Erin Nozetz and I am a pediatrician in New Haven, CT.

I stand in **support** of SB284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in making sure our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we all need and deserve. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

My clinical practice includes families who are undocumented. For example, Javier is a 17-year-old young man who fled his home country due to gang violence and is now living in the USA. He presented with a significant fungal skin infection that needed prescription treatment. We did eventually find a way to get him the medication that he needed, however it was challenging and took several days during which time the infection went untreated.

I support S.B. 284 ,and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all community members in CT regardless of age or status.

Thank you for your time,
Erin A Nozetz, MD